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6. The topical water-in-oil preparation of claim 14, wherein the oligopeptides(s) is/are present in cosmetic or dermatological topical preparations in concentration of 0.000001 - 10% by weight, based on the total weight of the preparations.

**Please cancel claim 7-10.**

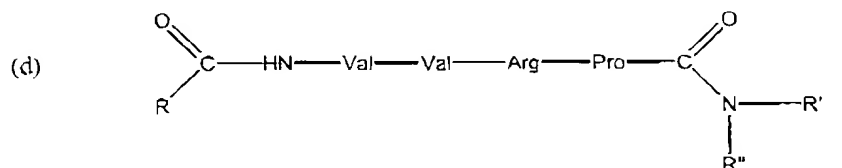
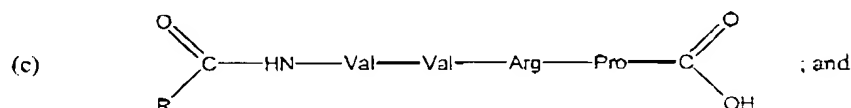
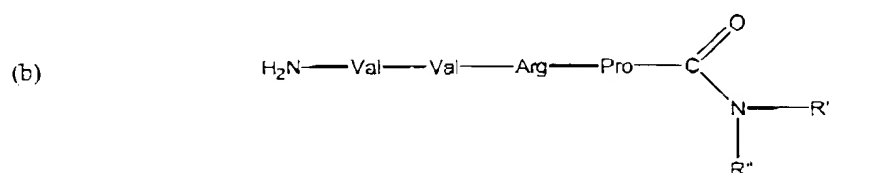
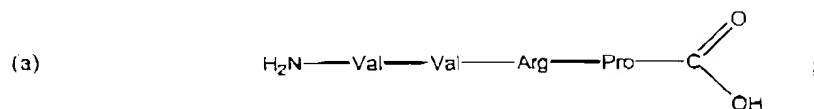
**Please substitute claims 11-13 with amended claims 11-13:**

11. The topical water-in-oil preparation of claim 6, wherein the oligopeptides(s) is/are present in the cosmetic or dermatological topical preparations in concentrations of 0.0001 - 1% by weight based on the total weight of the preparations.
12. The topical water-in-oil preparation of claim 11, wherein the oligopeptides(s) is/are present in the cosmetic or dermatological topical preparations in concentrations of 0.0001 - 0.1% by weight based on the total weight of the preparations.
13. A method of preventing or treating undesired skin pigmentation comprising topically applying to skin an effective amount of the topical water-in-oil preparation any one of claims 14-22.

**Please add new claims 14-25:**

14. A cosmetic or dermatological topical water-in-oil preparation for cosmetic and topical dermatological lightening of the skin or preventing tanning of the skin caused by UV radiation which comprises of one or more monomeric oligopeptides selected from the group consisting of:

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wherein:

R represents a branched or unbranched, saturated or unsaturated alkyl radical having C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>30</sub> carbon atoms,

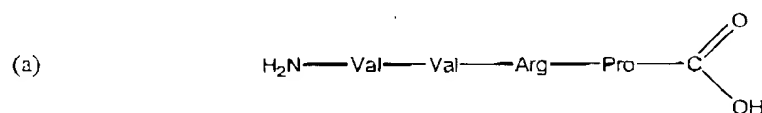
R' and R'' independently of one another may be selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and branched or unbranched, saturated or unsaturated alkyl radical having C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>30</sub> carbon atoms,

one or more cosmetically or dermatologically acceptable active ingredients, auxiliaries and/or additives; and

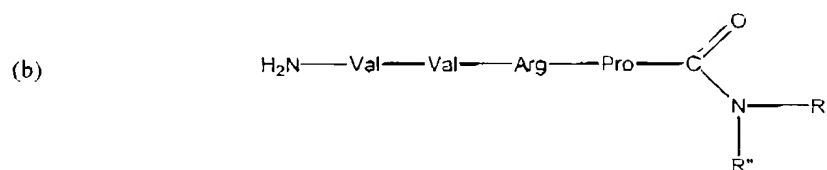
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a cosmetically or dermatologically acceptable carrier.

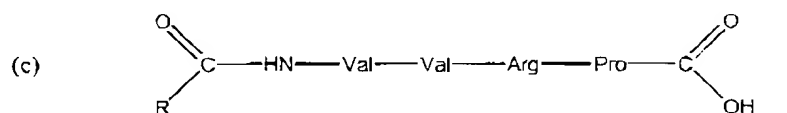
15. The cosmetic or dermatological topical water-in-oil preparation of claim 14 wherein the oligopeptide is



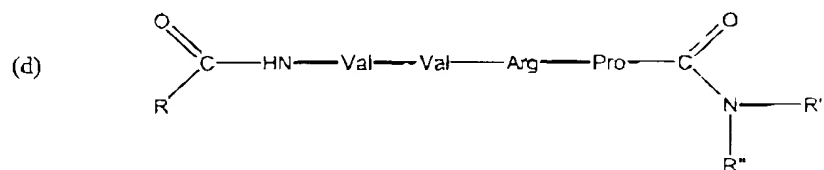
16. The cosmetic or dermatological topical water-in-oil preparation of claim 14 wherein the oligopeptide is



17. The cosmetic or dermatological topical water-in-oil preparation of claim 14 wherein the oligopeptide is



18. The cosmetic or dermatological topical water-in-oil preparation of claim 14 wherein the oligopeptide is



19. The cosmetic or dermatological topical water-in-oil preparation of claim 16 wherein R'

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and R'' is hydrogen.

20. The cosmetic or dermatological topical water-in-oil preparation of claim 17 wherein R is methyl.
21. The cosmetic or dermatological topical water-in-oil preparation of claim 17 wherein R is an n-C<sub>15</sub> or n-C<sub>17</sub> alkyl radical.
22. The cosmetic of dermatological topical water-in-oil preparation of claim 18 wherein R is methyl, R' is hydrogen and R'' is hydrogen.
23. The method of preventing or treating undesired skin pigmentation comprising topically applying to skin an effective amount of the topical water-in-oil preparation of claim 19.
24. The method of preventing or treating undesired skin pigmentation comprising topically applying to skin an effective amount of the topical water-in-oil preparation of claim 20.
25. The method of preventing or treating undesired skin pigmentation comprising topically applying to skin an effective amount of the topical water-in-oil preparation of any one of claim 21.
26. The method of preventing or treating undesired skin pigmentation comprising topically applying to skin an effective amount of the topical water-in-oil preparation of any one of claim 22.

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**In the Specification**

**Please substitute pages 11 with amended claim 11 (see next page):**

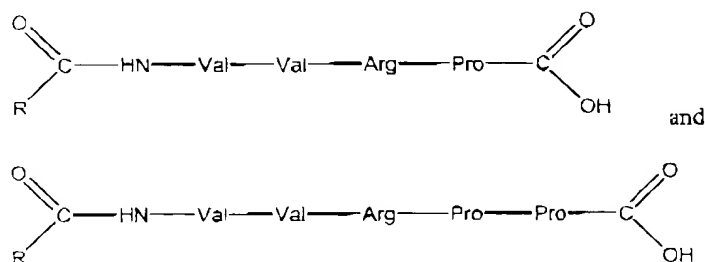
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- 11 -

are acylated on the N-terminus and/or amidated on the C-terminus.

Preferred acylated oligopeptides are those which are acylated on the N-terminus with unbranched alkanoyl groups.

Particularly preferred are



R representing n-C<sub>15</sub> or n-C<sub>17</sub> radical.

It may be preferable to synthesize the peptides of the present invention using recombinant DNA methods. Alternatively, it may be preferable to synthesize the peptides of the present invention using the well-known chain elongation techniques such as solid-phase synthesis, as on a Merrifield resin or the like.

To synthesize a peptide using recombinant DNA, one typically synthesizes a double-stranded DNA chain which encodes the desired amino acid sequence. The degeneracy of the genetic code permits a wide variety of codon combinations to be used to form the DNA chain that encodes the product peptide. Certain particular codons are more efficient for peptide expression in certain types of organisms and the selection of codons preferably is made according to those codons which are most efficient for expression in the type of organism which is to serve as the host for the recombinant vector. However, any correct set of codons should encode the desired product, even if slightly less effi-